

the daily sports

Monday, Nov. 3 6

Lions take to the air to stop Hurricanes

By DENISE BACHMAN
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

From Miami came the Hurricanes and from University Park came swirling 20 mph winds, but Penn State didn't allow itself to get caught in the whirlwind.

As a matter of fact, the Lions (7-1) turned in their finest performance of the season, both offensively and defensively, en route to a 27-12 victory over Miami (4-3) Saturday before a chilled All-University Day crowd of 83,681 and representatives from the Fiesta, Gator, Garden State and Sugar Bowls at Beaver Stadium.

"I think it was our best effort on all levels against a good football team," Penn State coach Joe Paterno said. "We played as well defensively as we played offensively."

Contrary to earlier games this season, the Lions came out throwing and found it to their liking. They eclipsed their season highs in the attempts and yardage departments with 29 tosses and 176 yards.

"We've been trying to get better balance offensively," Paterno said. "We've been in a couple of football games where we really didn't have to throw. But we didn't think we could run against this club unless we opened them up."

The Lions' strategy worked as tailback Curt Warner ran rampant, collecting 146 yards in 24 carries and giving him 740 yards this season. It was his second-best outing (149 yards against Colgate) and third 100-yard performance of the season and moved him into 13th place on the all-time Penn State rushing list with 1,131 yards. He also was named TCS player of the game for the fourth time this season.

Warner's efforts added to his backfield mates' 137 yards gave the Lions 283 yards rushing for 459 total yards against a defensive unit which allowed 241.3 yards per game and was ranked 11th in the country in total defense prior to the game Saturday.

"The offensive line just went out today with it in mind just to blow those people away," Lion quarterback Todd Blackledge said. "And they just did a super job, and when you get a guy like Curt and Hooker (Moore) who know how to pick their way through, there's no telling what can happen."

Warner also credited the offensive line, saying, "They were quick today. They knew they had to do a good job. Once they know they're in for a tough game, I think it makes them play a little better because they know the challenge is there."



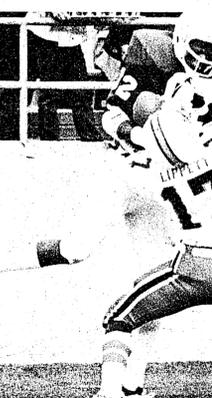
Lion tailback Curt Warner rushed for 146 yards on 24 carries in Penn State's 27-12 victory over Miami on Saturday afternoon at Beaver Stadium. It was the third 100-yard performance this season for Warner, who was voted TCS player of the game.

Perhaps overshadowed by the Lions' passing fancy was the defense's performance. The Lions punctured the Hurricanes' ground game, surrendering just 48 yards in 25 attempts, and prevented Miami quarterback Jim Kelly from enjoying the same success as last year, even though Kelly and Mike Rodriguez combined for 206 yards in the air.

Linebacker Chet Parlayecchio led the defensive charges, making 10 tackles, while end Gene Gladys made his presence felt in the Miami backfield. He killed the Hurricanes' scoring drive late in the fourth quarter when he stole the ball from Kelly after Miami marched to the 24-yard line.

"I thought the defense played a good solid game," Gladys said. "We didn't give up the big play. We bent and gave up some yardage, but overall I thought we played well."

Parlayecchio echoed Gladys' assessment, saying, "I thought the defense was excellent." Parlayecchio said, "The secondary played superbly and the defensive line put excellent pressure on them. We still made a few mistakes, but it's starting to jell."



It's anyone's ball as Penn State's Kenny Jackson (82) and Miami's Ron Lippett (17) battle in the Hurricane end zone for a third quarter pass thrown by Lion tailback Joel Coles. Jackson finally made the grab for the touchdown to give Penn State a 17-9 lead. The pass — the same 49 pitch pass Coles made famous against Tulane in the Liberty Bowl last season — was one of four caught by Jackson and one of 13 caught by the Penn State offense in the Lions' most successful passing day of the season.

State offense flies the friendly skies — first class

By TOM VERDUCCI
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

After plodding along with all the artistry of a Sherman tank, the Penn State offense finally took off Saturday.

And when the Lions chucked that mode of movement and ventured into the wild blue yonder of a passing game, the results were spectacular.

Three Penn State quarterbacks and one tailback combined for 13 completions in 29 attempts for 176 yards in a 27-12 win over Miami. It was the Lions' most productive passing game of the season, surpassing the 123 yards against Nebraska.

"People were getting down on us a little bit," freshman wide-out Kenny Jackson said, "but we knew we could do the job. And there was no doubt about it. You saw it and everybody else saw it, and now everyone knows that we can pass just as we can run."

right end Vito Kab, whose closest defender was somewhere near Bellefonte.

"I felt great," Blackledge said. "I love to throw the football, there's no question about it. But I think we have to be realistic with the kind of running backs we have and the line that it doesn't make sense to go out and throw every other down."

"But when we can go out and open things up, it's a good feeling."

Penn State coach Joe Paterno gave everyone an indication of what to expect by calling for a pass on the Lions' first play from scrimmage. Blackledge faked a reverse to Jackson and hit tight end Brad Scovill for 27 yards to the Miami 30, setting up a Herb Menhardt 29-yard field goal.

But Paterno's message was wired to his young Lions in particular, who faced the 11th best defense in the country.

"I just wanted the kids to know that we wanted them to go in there and play this one loose," Paterno said, "and not go in there and think we could just knock their

brains out. We wanted to set a tone if we could."

From that point on, Paterno pulled out all sorts of chapters from his dusty passing playbook, including dropbacks, roll-outs, a double pump flanker screen and a halfback option pass.

Plays like that kept the Hurricanes guessing, and the running game, led by Curt Warner (24 carries, 146 yards), were quick to make fools of them. Miami had been allowing just 283.1 total yards per game, but the Lions churned out 459 yards (283 rushing, 176 passing).

"We didn't think we could run against this club unless we opened up," Paterno said. "Obviously, we're still not a really good passing team but we're getting better."

Scovill, who caught four passes for 69 yards, said all the hard work is beginning to pay off.

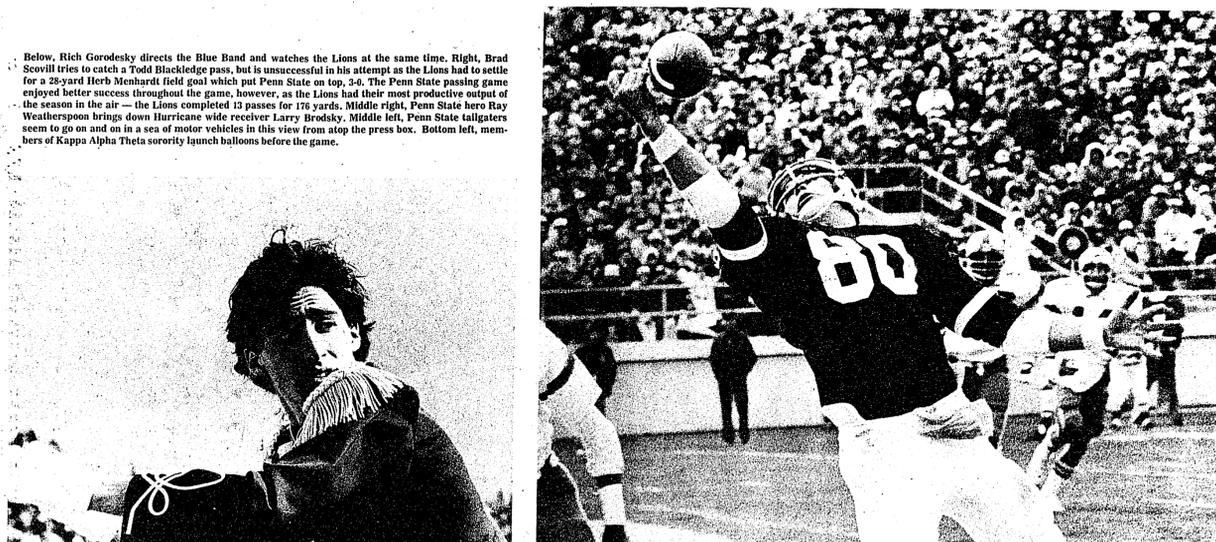
"We've been working on our passing game probably twice as much as we have in the three years I've been here," Scovill said. "It's getting to the point now where, hey, we spent all this time practicing, we better be getting good at it."

"We're good pass blockers when we get the chance," tackle Bill Dugan said. "Passing balances our attack so we can honestly be a good football team. If it's not balanced it's frustrating to run the same plays over and over, knowing that

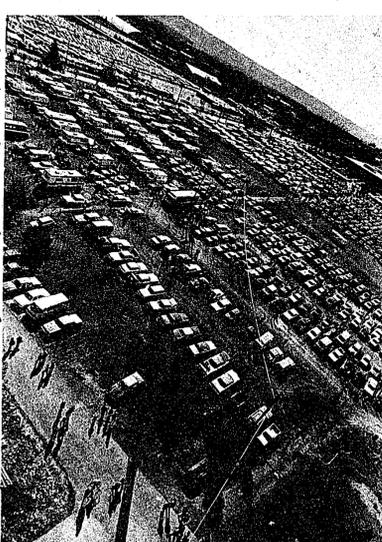
it's like they know what we're going to run."

Offensive captain and center Bob Jagers said the emergence of the passing game Saturday will force the Lions' remaining opponents to "look at a lot of things now. Anytime you've got people guessing, it's a lot easier to do what you want."

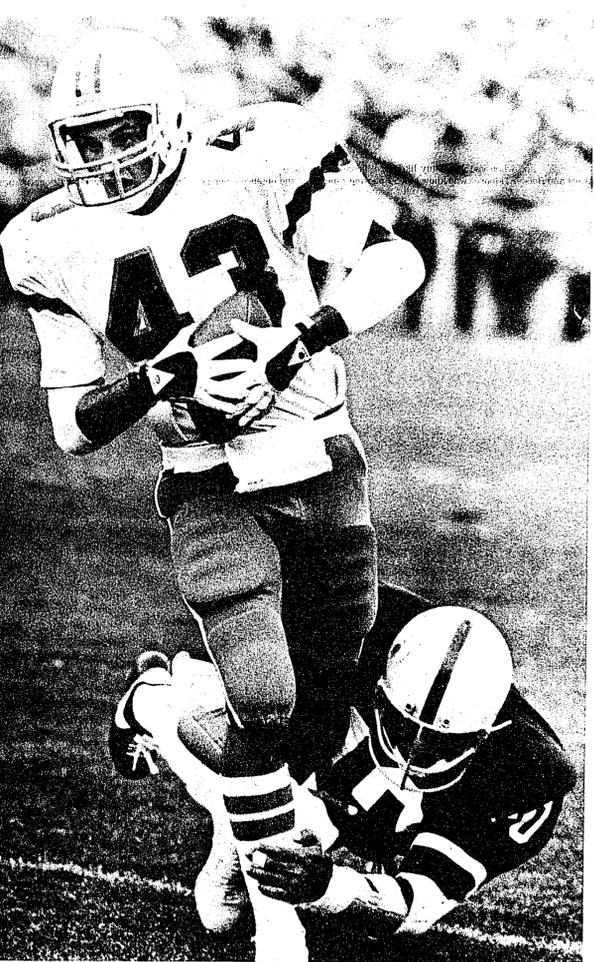
And with their top quarterback and top receiver only freshmen, the Lions figure to cause opponents trouble for a long time.



Lions pass through eye of Hurricane



Photos by Janis Burger, Brian Gamberman and Rick Graff



Below, Rich Gorodesky directs the Blue Band and watches the Lions at the same time. Right, Brad Scovill tries to catch a Todd Blackledge pass, but is unsuccessful in his attempt as the Lions had to settle for a 29-yard Herb Menhardt field goal which put Penn State on top, 3-0. The Penn State passing game enjoyed better success throughout the game, however, as the Lions had their most productive output of the season in the air — the Lions completed 13 passes for 176 yards. Middle right, Penn State hero Ray Weatherup brings down Hurricane wide receiver Larry Brodsky. Middle left, Penn State tailgaters seem to go on and on in a sea of motor vehicles in this view from atop the press box. Bottom left, members of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority launch balloons before the game.